threatened, humiliated, beaten, dragged to the police station, berated in public, and then she was so humiliated that she committed suicide. Sir, this boy has been arrested, accused of rape and we have no doubt about this that this has happened only because that boy happens to be a Muslim. None of those who dragged them off the bus have been arrested.

Earlier, exactly the same thing happened to the daughter of a CPI MLA, who was travelling by a bus. She was forcibly abducted off the bus, taken to a place, beaten up, threatened and only let off when she gave an assurance that she would not be seen speaking to the Muslim boy. The Leader of the Opposition has said that this is a perilous path for the Republic to take. This is a perilous path because the truth of the matter is that this Hindutva twin of the Taliban, gets its inspiration from the sectarian agenda of the Hindutva forces at a Hindutva platform.

This is further strengthened by the fact that today, if this is made possible, it is because of the connivance of the very Government which is there, sworn in in the name of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, Sir, this is not just a question of this or that girl.

Then, earlier, the girls who were in a pub, they are adult young women; they choose to go to a pub. There is no prohibition in Karnataka. There is no law against this. Anybody can go to a pub if she so chooses. They were dragged, beaten in public. I say, Sir, this is an affront to a free and democratic India, it is a slap in the face of our democracy. The responsibility of this is primarily with the Hindutva brigade. I would repeat that it is the twin of Taliban. Therefore, since the State Government has refused to act, we demand that these organisations should be proscribed under the sections of the new Act which has been recently adopted—the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. And, tomorrow, the Central Government must take up the responsibility to ensure the safety of our young women.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all associate. Now, Shri Thirunavukkarasar.

Demand to take steps to restore peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise a very important matter. Sir, innocent Tamilians, hundreds of them, in Sri Lanka are killed by the Sri Lankan army for the past one month. Nearly 3 lakh Sri Lankan Tamils are wandering in the jungles without proper food, clothing and medicine. The Sri Lankan army is chasing them everyday. Sri Lankan army and navy have almost pushed them to the forest. Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a resolution. All party leaders from Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, have come here and met the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. On behalf of the Government, it was promised that Shri Pranab Mukherjee would be sent to Sri Lanka. It took nearly

one month for him to go there. Even after that, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has mentioned in the press meeting that he was not informed about the results of the talks between the two countries, between the two Ministers. The Central Government has, so far, done nothing. Moreover, Indian Government, it is reported in all the newspapers, is helping the Sri Lankan Government. Two days back, the Sri Lankan President Rajapakse has thanked the Indian Government for helping the Sri Lankan Government in this regard.

Sir, innocent people are being killed. Bombing is being done on hospitals, innocent sick people are being killed. This is the situation prevailing over there.

All the human rights are violated, Press people are not allowed there, the Red Cross Society is not allowed there, international forums like the Human Rights Commission are not allowed to inspect the affected areas. They are not allowed to meet the affected people also. This is a very serious situation. All over the world people are agitated. *(Time-bell).* In Tamil Nadu lot of youngsters, starting from one Muttukumarswamy, so many have burnt themselves to death. The people are agitated but this Government is sleeping, it is not doing anything at all. The Tamil people should be saved. The Indian Government should not help the Sri Lankan Government, it should not give any military aid and the Indian Government should withdraw all the radars, which were already supplied, and this matter should be immediately taken up in the UNO. The Central Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri D. Raja. *...(Interruptions)...* Three minutes are over. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, the Central Government should take up this matter with the Sri Lankan Government.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka, as mentioned by my previous speaker, is very grave. There is a grave humanitarian crisis threatening the lives of almost 300,000 Sri Lankan Tamils. This issue should not be the concern of Tamil people alone; it should be the concern of the entire nation. Even a party like the DMK, which is part of the UPA, an important ally of the UPA, has termed what is going on in Sri Lanka 'is nothing but a genocide'. So, it is genocide , according to the DMK, according to an important ally of the UPA. If that is so, what is the response of India? I think, India has got a moral and ethical responsibility because India is not just a neighbour to Sri Lanka, but India and Sri Lanka have got several bilateral agreements. India cannot be a mute spectator. But what is happening today is very disturbing. The Indian Government is supporting Sri Lankan military in its war, India is sending more than 250 experts in radar and modern surveillance technologies to Sri Lanka and India is also providing continuous satellite images of the Northern areas thereby providing a tactical edge to Sri Lankan Army and Air Force for precision in bombing of civilians locations. Indian Navy is providing sea cover by making available all naval intelligence. I

would like to ask what is the policy of the Government of India. If there is a policy, it is high time you recast your policy towards Sri Lanka. If you have a policy, I think, that policy is to collaborate the war in Sri Lanka, that is what is happening on ground. It so happens that there is confusion in India's foreign policy as far as Sri Lanka is concerned. Indian Government considers that what is going on in Sri Lanka is a war between Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE; it is an internal problem of another sovereign nation, so, India has a limited role. But I wish to underline that India cannot treat this problem just as an internal problem of a sovereign nation. We have more than 70 to 80 thousand refugees in Tamil Nadu. Who is responsible for these refugees? What is the policy of the UPA Government? The UPA Government is making a goody-goody statement whereas this Government has miserably failed to safeguard the lives of the innocent Sri Lankan Tamils. My humble request is that the Government comes up clean on its foreign policy towards Sri Lanka. I am asking the Rajapaksa Government to stop this war and find out a political solution to the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... *(Time-bell rings)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Maitreyan, you have not given your name. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you supporting it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I will take only 30 seconds.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The attack on Tamilians in Sri Lanka is a matter of serious concern. The war has to be stopped. The fatal attack by the Sri Lankan Army has to be stopped. In these efforts, whatever steps the Central Government takes AIADMK will definitely support. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I would like to submit that, yesterday, the hon. President of India made it very clear about the Indian Government's policy on Sri Lanka. The hon. President very clearly said that there should be ceasefire and they should go to the negotiating table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Jharkhand): Sir, hospitals are bombarded. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: One thing I would like to say, Sir, at any cost our country. ...*(Interruptions)*...They have been kept as hostages by the LTTE militants. Our Government will not support the banned organisation, LTTE ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Government of India cannot behave like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Raja, please sit down.

Returning of medals by ex-army officers

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा): डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं एक बहुत जरूरी मसले की ओर आपका और सारे हाऊस का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। 9 फरवरी को हमारे देश के तकरीबन 300 रिटायर्ड फौजी जरनल और वे